

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus adapted for processing content provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing a plurality of available contents,
the information processing apparatus comprising:
first acquisition means for acquiring a first license having a first utilization condition applied in common for the plurality of available contents, the first license further including first key information and ~~[[an]]~~ a first electronic signature;
second acquisition means for acquiring, along with a content from among the plurality of available contents, a second license that is provided in a manner different from the first license and has a second utilization condition for the acquired content, and the second license further including identification information of a first license corresponding to the second license, second key information, and ~~[[an]]~~ a second electronic signature; and
control means for controlling ~~output~~ reproduction of the acquired content when the first utilization condition of the first license and the second utilization condition of the second license are satisfied.

wherein when the plurality of available contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the second acquisition means acquires, during the reproduction of a first content, the second license which prescribes the second utilization condition of a second content distributed subsequent to the first content, and the control means controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to the first content when the first utilization condition prescribed by the first license and the second utilization condition prescribed by the second license are both satisfied.

3. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the first acquisition means acquires the first license encrypted by a public-key corresponding to a secret-key to be prepared.

4. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the second key included in the second license is encrypted, and the control means decrypts, by using the first key information, encrypted second key information and uses the second key information to decrypt the acquired content.

5. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

license management means for allowing any other information processing apparatus to permit utilization of the acquired content when the first utilization condition prescribed by the first license and the second utilization condition prescribed by the second license are both satisfied.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A computer-implemented method of processing content provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing a plurality of available contents,

the computer-implemented method comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring a first license having a first utilization condition applied in common for the plurality of available contents, the first license further including first key information and ~~[[an]]~~ a first electronic signature;

a second acquisition step of acquiring, along with a content from among the plurality of available contents, a second license that is provided in a manner different from the first license and has a second utilization condition for the acquired content, and the second license further including identification information of a first license corresponding to the second license, second key information, and ~~[[an]]~~ a second electronic signature; and

~~an output step of playing~~ a control step of controlling, using a processor,
reproduction of the acquired content to a user when the first utilization condition of the first license and the second utilization condition of the second license are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of available contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the second acquisition step acquires, during the reproduction of a first content, the second license which prescribes the second utilization condition of a second content distributed subsequent to the first content, and the control step controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to the first content when the first utilization condition prescribed by the first license and the second utilization condition prescribed by the second license are both satisfied.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions that are executable by a computer to perform a method for processing ~~process~~ content provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing a plurality of available contents,

the method comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring a first license having a first utilization condition applied in common for the plurality of available contents, the first license further including first key information and ~~[[an]]~~ a first electronic signature;

a second acquisition step of acquiring, along with a content from among the plurality of available contents, a second license that is provided in a manner different from the first license and has a second utilization condition for the acquired content, and the second license further including identification information of a first license corresponding to the second license, second key information, and ~~[[an]]~~ a second electronic signature; and

a control step of controlling output reproduction of the acquired content when the first utilization condition of the first license and the second utilization condition of the second license are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of available contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the second acquisition step acquires, during the reproduction of a first content, the second license which prescribes the second utilization condition of a second content distributed subsequent to the first content, and the control step controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to the first content when the first utilization condition prescribed by the first license and the second utilization condition prescribed by the second license are both satisfied.

9. (Canceled).